

Amendments To The Claims:

Kindly amend the claims in accordance with the following claim set.

Claims 1-87 (Canceled)

88. (Currently Amended): A carpet tile comprising a carpet layer and a backing attached thereto and having at least one layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs, and wherein said carpet tile has an appearance retention rating of at least 4.0 after 4,000 cycles.

89. (Canceled)

90. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the layer of compressible foam particles bonded together is a compressed particle foam and has a compressibility of less than 100% of the foam thickness at 40 psi.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously Presented): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, having an appearance retention rating of at least 3 after 12,000 cycles.

93. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together is at least one of a cut, slit and peeled foam.

94. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer of compressible foam particles has a recycled content of at least 85%.

95. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together is an open celled foam comprised of open celled foam particles bonded together.

96. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 95, wherein the open celled foam is comprised of foamed polyurethane.

97. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said foam particles bonded together have an average uncompressed chip size of 25 mm or less.

98. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together has a density of 25 lbs/ft³ or less .

99. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer of compressible foam particles has a recycled content of at least 50%.

100. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, having a hexapod rating >2.0 at 12,000 cycles.

101. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together is one layer of a hot melt laminated carpet backing.

102. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in Claim 88, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together is one layer of a flame laminated carpet backing.

103. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, having an initial Gmax of less than 125.

104. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, having a cushion weight of less than 32 oz/yd² and an initial Gmax less than 125.

105. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the layer of compressible foam particles bonded together has at least one of a honey-combed, reticulated, and skeletal open cell structure.

106. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the layer of compressible foam particles bonded together has a structure of randomly placed particles bonded together in a compressed state.

107. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer of compressible foam particles bonded together is substantially free of any filler.

108. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said compressible foam particles of said layer of compressible foam particles bonded together are substantially 100% recycled content.

109. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the compressible foam particles are bonded together with an adhesive.

110. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 109, wherein said adhesive contains at least one additive, agent or compound selected from flame retardant, anti-bacterial, color, anti-microbial, anti-fungal, conductive, anti-static, fibers, filler, recycled materials, and combinations thereof.

111. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the compressible foam particles are bonded together in a compressed state.

112. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said tile includes a plurality of layers of compressible foam particles bonded together.

113. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer of compressible foam particles bonded together has at least one lateral surface which is cut, peeled, or slit.

114. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the carpet layer includes at least one of woven, tufted, or bonded carpet.

115. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said layer of compressible foam particles bonded together has air permeability.

116. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the backing is a multilayer backing.

117. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the backing includes a stabilizing layer.

118. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the layer of

compressible foam particles has a thickness of less than 8 mm.

119. (Original): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein the tile has an overall height of less than 10 mm.

120. (Currently Amended): A carpet tile comprising a carpet layer and a backing attached thereto and having at least one layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs and wherein said carpet tile has a caster chair rating of >2.3.

121. (Previously Presented): A carpet tile comprising a carpet layer and a backing attached thereto and having at least one layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs and wherein said carpet tile has an EN 1307 rating of >2.

122. (Previously Presented): A carpet tile comprising a carpet layer and a backing attached thereto and having at least one layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together, wherein said layer comprised of compressible foam particles bonded together has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs and wherein said carpet tile has a Herzog walking comfort rating for contract use (DIN 54327) of >0.70.

123. (Previously Presented): A cushion back carpet tile comprising a carpet layer and a cushion back attached thereto and having at least one layer comprised of preformed foamed polyurethane particles bonded together, wherein said layer comprised of foamed polyurethane particles bonded together has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs.

124. (Canceled)

125. (Original): The cushion back carpet tile as recited in claim 123, wherein said layer comprised of foamed polyurethane particles bonded together has a thickness of about 2 to 20 mm.

126. (Original): The cushion back carpet tile as recited in claim 123, wherein said layer comprised of foamed polyurethane particles bonded together has a compressibility of less than 100% at 40 psi.

127. (Original): The cushion back carpet tile as recited in claim 123, wherein said tile has an appearance retention rating of at least 4 at 4,000 cycles.

128. (Original): The cushion back carpet tile as recited in claim 123, wherein said tile has an appearance retention rating of at least 3 at 12,000 cycles.

Claims 129. – 130. (Canceled)

131. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 88, wherein said compressible foam particles have an average uncompressed particle size of 15 mm or less.

Claims 132. – 148. (Canceled)

149. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 111, wherein the layer of compressible foam particles is a rebond foam.